

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, April 14, 1909

Beinn Bhreagh, near Baddeck, Nova Scotia. April 14, 1909. Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. Dear Mabel:

Thank goodness the last Bulletin of the A.E.A. has gone with its three appendices A, B & C. Hope you liked appendix B a complimentary copy of which I sent you. I am must much pleased with the photograph of the founder of the A.E.A. although she does not look quite as young as she used to do. Appendix C has been quite a job and I enclose a Table of Contents. You will probably see the portfolio with the blue prints in it at Charlie's.

Today Mabel McCurdy has got hold of me and she has unearthed from a big stack of letters something you asked me to attend to to reply to the letter of F. W. Cummings. I am afraid it is too late for the present Bulletin — I mean Review — but will do my best as I think that these side-shot letters, like those from Harris Taylor and Mr. Cummings, afford an opportunity for indirectly showing the scope of the symbols. The symbol for the approximation of the posterior pillars of the soft palate seems to have struck Mr. Cummings; and, while I may not be able to tell him how to symbolize Arabic sounds without my knowing the organic formation of the sounds, I can at all events give a little lecture upon the use of the symbols in expressing imagined vocal organs which may be of use to Cummings and also to teachers generally 2 by leading them (1) to see what they are to look for, (2) how they are to express it and (3) how to symbolize their conception of the position desired.

This is a beautiful April day and it is a pleasure to breathe the pure fresh air. The ice is fast disappearing and a perfect craze has set in for motor boats. Cox, Davidson, Byrnes, Manchester, Bedwin, Casey and Douglas and a whole lot of other people are each

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planning for a motor boat of their own. There will hardly be a row-boat left in Baddeck and the vicinity when the summer comes on. There will be a regular fleet of little motor-boats.

Looking out from the Study verandah I notice that the flag pole has gone and a deep well-like hole has taken its place. I saw a man descend there the other day and he went clean out of sight. Then there is a new flag-pole ready to put up.

We had three lambs born within the last day or two of and all are MALES! Davidson is trying to raise chickens from some of the enormous eggs he is producing. I had some of them down at the Houseboat and investigated their contents with the discovery that they were not double-yoked eggs. So Davidson is trying to hatch chickens from them. His hens have been wonderfully fertile this winter. Indeed this fertility has caused one of them its life. Cause of death, a large number of eggs.

Today I am to discuss with the boys what we are going to do. Appendix C was sent off by express this morning from Baddeck and the remainder of my time here will now be taken up with planning for the summer. A.G.B.